

been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Capacity addition slippages to worsen power shortage" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 16th October, 1996.

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the factors responsible for massive slippages during the current plan period;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to check slippages and to improve power situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The general and broad factors contributing to the delays in the implementation of power projects have been delays in taking up of infrastructural and enabling works, paucity of funds, delays in placing orders of generating equipments and in award of contracts for civil works/erection of equipment, delayed deliveries and non-sequential supplies, contract failures, law and order problems and natural calamities like floods, land slides etc.

(d) In order to ensure the timely commissioning of power projects which are under execution, Ministry of Power and the Central Electricity Authority are closely monitoring the progress of these projects and rendering timely assistance, wherever required, by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.

DESU

82. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals/representations for formation of "Delhi Vidyut Board" in the capital and handing-over 'DESU' to the State Government of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The Government of Delhi had requested for the delegation of powers of the State Government under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 for taking steps, inter alia, to constitute a State Electricity Board for Delhi. The Government approved the delegation of powers of a State Government under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and Indian Electricity Act, 1910 to the Lt. Governor of Delhi. The Ministry of Home Affairs, is taking necessary further steps in the matter in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice.

[English]

LPG Bottling Plant

83. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a LPG Bottling Plant for Ladakh to be set up at Leh has been sanctioned by the Government in the year 1995;

(b) whether land for the LPG Bottling Plant has also been given possession by the State Government to the IOC a couple of years back; and

(c) if so, whether the work on this project is likely to be started and the reasons for the delay in starting the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The land which was taken in 1992 by TOC for J&K Government near Leh (Ladakh) for construction of POL Depot, is now to be used for construction of LPG Bottling Plant. However, in addition to this land, additional land is required to be taken from J&K Government. Action for early take over is in progress.

(c) The work at project site is expected to commence in June'97 when the road will re-open. The land take over is expected to be completed ahead of June, 1997. The tendering process for this project has already commenced.

IDSMT Scheme in Bihar

84. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of small and medium towns recommended by the Bihar Government for being developed under IDSMT;

(b) the total number out of them which were taken during 1994-96;

(c) the number of towns which are proposed to be taken under this scheme in the State during 1996-97; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) From 1979-80 till 1996-97, proposals duly recommended by the Government of Bihar for development of 44 towns under the IDSMT Scheme conforming to the Scheme Guidelines, have been received.

(b) Out of these 44 towns, seven towns were covered under IDSMT during 1994-96.

(c) 9 towns were proposed by the State Government for inclusion under IDSMT during 1996-97.